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ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT,

Communications.

THOUGHTS ON PRESCRIBING.

"Eclectic" Remedies.

By EDWARD PARRISH,

Of Philadelphia.

(Continued from p. 115.)

No. 2.

Choice of Remedies.

Under this general head the considerations which present themselves are mainly therapeutical, and hence out of the range of this essay; but it has often been a subject of remark, that of the hundreds of drugs in the recognized materia medica, so very few should be employed in the ordinary practice of any single physician; and of these few, so small a proportion should be the products of our own country. Do we suppose that the varied soil and climate of our vast continent are less prolific of valuable medicinal productions than those of either of the other great divisions of the earth? America has given to medicine many of the most potent agents now used in the cure of disease, and although I am far from adopting any narrow idea which would, in the least, limit a sphere of investigation which should be world-wide, yet I do respect that spirit of inquiry and research which seeks to render available every resource furnished to our hand. Is it not marvelous that a single school of so-called medical reformers should have so entirely connected with their crude system of practice many of the most valuable of our native remedies, which, as they knock at the door and are welcomed in to the great temple of medicine, claim to be the offspring of the "eclectic practice?"—a practice perhaps chiefly distinguished by want of eclecticism.

Scammony.

Do not our teachers too much confine themselves to the beaten track? And are not practitioners, by following in their foot-steps, too much tied down to ancient remedies, many of which are now almost inaccessible in a state of purity? Scam-

mony, for instance, is brought to this country from Smyrna, through London. If pure, it should contain from seventy-five to ninety per cent. of a cathartic resin. If sought in our drug stores or dispensing establishments, in many instances it will not be found at all. In some cases an inferior, factitious article will be offered, containing, perhaps, ten per cent. of resin. An ample dose of pure scammony would be five grains, while, of this factitious article, twenty or thirty might be given, and then with the greatest uncertainty as to what results are to be looked for. This instance is selected because scammony being still retained in the official Compound Extract of Colocynth, shows the tendency of the profession to adhere to a remedy known to the ancients which is very costly and scarce, and might have long since been superseded by abundant and reliable cathartics, the growth of our own soil. Of the hundreds of pounds of Compound Extract of Colocynth prepared by manufacturing pharmacists for private dispensing, there probably are not five pounds in the hundred that contain this expensive ingredient in full proportion and standard quality. It may, in fact, be clearly known to be deficient in this respect whenever it is offered for sale at a price less than six dollars per pound. The largest ingredient in Compound cathartic pill is this well-known extract, so that this deficiency of quality extends to the most common of all our official preparations.

Indigenous Remedies.

Instances might be multiplied, showing the uncertainty and the unwarrantable expenditure of money, entailed by a neglect of practitioners to make choice of remedies, readily accessible and too cheap to tempt the adulterator to the exercise of his arts. We want a work on American remedies, pervaded by a candid and impartial spirit and an evidence of scientific ability. Our invaluable United States Dispensatory, from its very plan, gives prominence to the official remedies and throws into an appendix a large proportion of those referred to, while the several works called "Eclectic" are written in a style of panegyric which justifies the idea, that the writer advocates the merits of each remedy, as prepared by some particular manufacturer, much as a lawyer espouses the cause of his client.

Resinoids.

The object in introducing these remarks is to call attention to the eligibility, from a pharmaceutical point of view, of some of the remedies called *resinoid*. These are prepared by forming concentrated tinctures, with strong alcohol, from drugs, containing resinous active principles, and precipitating the resins from these by throwing them into a large quantity of water. This precipitate, though usually contaminated with coloring matters and other accidental impurities, has the advantage of being pulverulent and hence easily incorporated with other powders, and adapted equally to the form of powder or of pill. Its dose is very small in comparison with that of the drug, and being slowly soluble in the saliva, it has but little taste. The "eclectic" pharmacutists, who first applied this process to drugs generally, have carried it too far, and subjected some drugs to it, the active principles of which are partially soluble in water, and hence held in solution when the resin is precipitated. The essential point in regard to this form of preparation is that the drug should owe its activity to principles freely soluble in alcohol and insoluble in water, and as this happens to be the case with so many roots and barks, we have a most valuable series of remedies prepared in this way. The scope of this essay does not allow a review of nearly all these remedies, but I am tempted to refer to several which have already attained a high reputation among regular practitioners.

Podophyllin.

Of cathartics the most celebrated is podophyllin, which, rumorsays, is to be made officinal in the new Pharmacopœia under the name *resina podophylli*. In doses of two to four grains, this is a drastic cathartic of great efficiency, but taken in one-fourth to one-half grain doses, it operates as an admirable cholagogue and alterative, tending to restore the secretions, when deranged, to normal activity. Recent investigations have rendered it probable that this preparation, as generally prepared by the aid of muriatic acid added to the aqueous precipitate, contains berberina, a valuable tonic, existing also and in Colombo root, in hydrastin, a "concentrated remedy," to be noticed below. Among the recommendations of Podophyllin are, its abundance, its uniformity and freedom from sophistication, and the fact that almost any pharmacist or pharmaceutically educated physician in the Northern States may collect the root, upon some neglected meadow or hill-side within his reach, and may himself prepare the resinoid by a simple and easy process.

Leptandrin.

Leptandrin is a resinoid, prepared from *leptandra virginica*, prescribed as a cholagogue or stimu-

lant to the hepatic secretion, without so decided purgative properties, as usually pertain to that class of remedies—a substitute for small doses of Pil. hydrarg. It appears to be innoxious and owing to its partial solubility is free from unpleasant taste. Dose, two to four grains.

Hydrastin.

Hydrastin is the name applied in commerce to a yellow crystalline precipitate, produced by the addition of muriatic acid to an infusion of *Hydrastin Canadensis*—yellow puccoon root or golden seal, a plant of the numerous and remarkable family *Ranunculaciac*. A recent analysis of this, by Prof. F. Mahla, of Chicago, proves it to be identical with muriate of the vegetable alkali berberina, found in Colombo, and one of the very best tonics we have. It is chiefly prescribed alone or in combination, in treating dyspepsia and chronic inflammation of the stomach, and is said, combined with bitters, to remove, gradually, the abnormal conditions consequent on intemperance, and in some instances to destroy the appetite for liquor.

Cimicifugin.

Cimicifugin or *macrotin* is a resinoid derived from black snake root, and possesses a variety of therapeutic properties; the dose is from one to six grains, and as a tonic, alterative nervine, with an asserted affinity for the uterus, it is worthy of a trial in a variety of obscure nervous diseases. The root has long been a favorite in chorea and in the form of fluid extract a very popular remedy. The merit of the resinoid is that although it does not fully substitute the fluid extract, it is adapted to the form of pill or powder, and is not offensive to patients generally.

Caulophyllin.

Caulophyllin, from the root of the blue cohosh, is a new remedy, the effect of which is exerted on the uterus, as a tonic and alterative, in doses of a grain or less, and as a parturient in doses of from two to four grains at intervals of from fifteen to thirty minutes after labor has commenced.

Cornine.

Cornine is a precipitated powder, designed to represent dog-wood bark—*Cornus Florida*. It is a tonic, and as prepared by some manufacturers, an astringent; the reputation of the bark as a substitute for Peruvian bark in intermittents, would seem to justify a trial of this preparation at the hands of scientific therapeutists. Its dose may vary from one to ten grains.

The illustrations thus selected of the eclectic preparations will suffice for the purposes of the present essay, I shall comment on them more fully in the forthcoming third edition of my work on Pharmacy.

Alkaloids.

The so-called *alkaloids* of "eclectics" are liable, in some instances, to be confounded with the proper vegetable alkali, isolated from the drugs by elaborate processes, and with a few exceptions, little known in commerce. They are generally mixed precipitates of uncertain composition, though frequently powerful remedies. There seems no propriety in substituting the pure crystalline principles of plants by any impure and variable preparations, and it is to be regretted that the nomenclature adopted by their manufacturers should be so calculated to produce confusion in prescribing.

The principle of precipitation applied in preparing the numerous "eclectic" resinoids, may be applied to many of the familiar drugs which have long been in use. *Jalapin, resina jalapæ*, of the new Pharmacopœia, has long been esteemed in Europe as a powerful cathartic in doses of three to five grains; and *coleranthin*, prepared from *coleranth* by a modified process is a concentrated representative of its activity given in half grain doses.

Resinoids require to be dissolved, if exhibited in liquid form, by alcohol, ammonia, or alkaline solutions, and are rendered so much more soluble in soap, that when made into pillular form it may be advantageously used as an excipient. They are especially adapted to combination. *Podophyllin* is usually prescribed with milder cathartics and cholagogues. *Leptandrin* is generally given in combination with *podophyllin*, which increases its activity. This combination has been prescribed with great advantage. Sugar of milk, to be referred to hereafter as a valuable excipient, is found to be a suitable vehicle for the resinoids when prescribed in powder; promoting, by proper attention, their solubility, and covering any acidity of taste.

[To be continued.]

Hospital Reports.

PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL,
February 14, 1863.

MEDICAL CLINIC OF DR. DA COSTA.

Reported by Dr. H. C. Wood, Resident Physician.

Typhus Fever.

R. H., who was before the clinic on the 28th and 31st of January, suffering under typhus fever. It was remarked that this man has perfectly convalesced from the fever. He has not yet entirely recovered his strength, but is able to be about most of the day. The slight epidemic, or more properly endemic that we have had, has been a very fatal one. The patients were almost all of them drunkards. This, in part, accounts for the terrible mortality;

one half of the cases perishing. Although the patients were put in the ward by themselves, to prevent its spreading, yet one of their nurses contracted the disease and died. This alone is proof enough of the contagiousness of this fever, to cause the isolation of all such cases. This patient is now on simple tonics.

Typhoid Fever.

J. P., who was before the class on the 25th of January, with typhoid fever. It was remarked that when the man was at the clinic, in addition to his fever, he had well-marked pneumonia, although, owing to the severity of the pulmonary complication, the prognosis was very guarded. The man has outlived the fever. From it he has convalesced; but his sweats, which have been, ever since he was here, excessively profuse, and occurring both by night and by day, still continue, although much abated. Percussion dulness persists posteriorly over his left side, and fine moist rales are very plentiful in both lungs behind. His cough is both troublesome and accompanied with profuse purulent expectoration. There has never been any hæmoptysis. What is the prognosis now? In a certain number of cases of enteric fever with grave, pulmonary lesions, the convalescence is imperfect. The patient gains strength and his night sweats and cough improve up to a certain point, and there they settle. Above that you cannot raise the sufferer. After being stationary for awhile he begins to fall again, and soon dies of a sub-acute phthisis. In our present case there are as yet no positive signs of the deposition of tubercle, and it is right to try to prevent it as if we knew it had not occurred. Let this man have ʒss. of cod liver oil thrice daily, and also two grains of the pyrophosphate of iron, after meals. His chest will be painted daily with the tincture of iodine. It will be useful to look for a moment at the past treatment of the pulmonary complication. That, especially directed to the lungs, consisted in the administration of carbonate of ammonia, syrup of senega, and oil of turpentine; externally, constant counter-irritation was kept up by means of turpentine. In pulmonary affections, occurring in low fevers, turpentine, used both internally and externally, is very excellent. Indeed, it is such cases of typhoid fever, mainly, that I employ it in. It seems to me to have a more controlling influence in them than in those where the enteric lesions absorb the attention.

Dropsy Cases.

The three dropsy cases recently lectured on were now again brought before the class that they might be under treatment at the same time, so as to afford a comparative view.

The first case was W. K., negro, in whom the dropsy had been decided to be hepatic, although accompanied with some cardiac enlargement. He was ordered:

R, Potass. iodid., ʒij.
Potass. acet., ʒss.
Syr. toluatanus, aque, aa, ʒiij. M.
Ft. sol. Sig. Two drachms after meals.

His diet was directed to be mild and non-stimulating, but at the same time very nutritious; oysters, soups, &c. Alcohol, in any form, was forbidden. Further, the following pills were prescribed:

R, Pil. hydrarg., aloes, aa, gr. xij.
Extr. colocynth. comp., gr. xxiv. M.
Ft. pil. xij. Sig. One at bed time.

B. R., in whom the dropsy was diagnosed to be dependent on some obstruction to the return of the blood through the ascending vena cava. He was ordered a warm bath every night, and a pint of infusion of juniper berries with an ounce of cream of

tartar, daily; also, twenty drops of the tincture of the chloride of iron, after meals. Externally, the tincture of iodine was directed to be painted over the hypogastrium, where some hardness was discoverable.

The next case was the woman before the last clinic, with renal dropsy. It was remarked that this case is by far the worst of all. Her immensely swollen limbs call loudly for relief, and yet the usual avenues of escape for the water are choked up. The very scanty and highly albuminous urine demonstrates the uselessness of attempting anything through the kidneys. The skin is not at all adequate to the task. The bowels are then alone trustworthy. But, unfortunately, the woman is entirely too weak for active purgation. Let any man, in robust health, persist for a few days in the free use of hydragogue cathartics, and they will reduce him to a very weak condition. But, a day or two since, something had to be done, for the distended skin of the thighs was covered with an erysipelatous blush. Free superficial puncturing of the thighs was resorted to. From these openings the water poured forth in such quantities as to soak through the bed and make a pool on the floor, requiring to be wiped up with a house-cloth. It has been several days since the operation was done, but the water still slowly wells from the incisions. The occasional inhalation of the vapor of ammonia is sometimes serviceable in pulmonary affections of this kind, and will be tried in the case. A blister, of all remedies, has the most positive controlling power over this affection, and one will be applied here between the scapulae. Milk-punch and beef essence are freely administered; but the woman will probably not survive much longer.

These cases have been prescribed for collectively, so as to teach you the absurdity of a routine practice in dropsy, and that the only firm foundation for its treatment is a correct diagnosis of its cause.

There are three channels through which water can be eliminated from the system: the skin, kidneys, and bowels. In every case it is to be decided which of these, singly or conjointly, are to be selected. The skin is the least open; it is seldom that through it alone the effusion can be removed. The kidneys are much more serviceable, but, unfortunately, the action of diuretics is proverbially uncertain. Purgation is the surest method of running off water from the system, but few patients will bear it carried to its fullest extent. The depression becomes so alarming that the practitioner is necessitated to suspend his remedies.

In the first two cases we are attempting to influence the kidneys. The latter of the two was given the bitartrate of potash, because we wanted to act slightly on his bowels also. Iodide of potassium was prescribed, in the negro, for the hepatic lesion. It has more influence over this hardened condition of the liver than any other drug. The white man was given the ferri chlorid. on account of his anemia. In all cases of dropsy it is very necessary to improve the blood as far as may be. It is very apt to become anemic, and thus keep up the disease. All the diuretics, purgatives, and sudorifics are useless under such circumstances without they are conjoined with tonics, especially iron.

Erysipelas.

The class was next shown M. M., who was before them February 4th, with erysipelas following a miasmatic fever. He had perfectly recovered under the treatment pursued, his liver and spleen returning to their normal size without the use of any preparation of iodine.

P. L., et. thirty-six. He entered the hospital February 12th, but was first taken with a chill on the evening of the 10th, after having been exposed to the wet and cold. When he first came into the ward his face was very much swollen, but his com-

plaint was principally of pain in his throat and difficulty in breathing. On examination the fauces were found to be very much swollen and reddened by an erysipelatous flush. He was prescribed:

R,	Tr. ferri chlorid.,	f3v.	
	Quinine sulph.,	gr. xij.	
	Aqua,	f3vss.	M.
Sig.	Half an ounce every two hours.		

Also,

R,	Tr. ferri chlorid.,	f3ss.	
	Mellis, Glycerin., aa,	f3iij.	M.
Sig.	Use freely as a gargle.		

He was further ordered one and a half ounces of whisky-punch, (half and half,) every second hour, and an ounce of beef essence the intervening hour. To his face the following was applied:

R,	Extr. opii,	gr. iv.	
	Liq. plumb. subacet. dil.	f3j.	M.

Tincture of iodine was painted around the affected portion, on the sound skin, to keep the disease from extending, if possible.

It was remarked that the appearance of the man immediately betrays his complaint. Whenever a patient presents himself with a swollen, tense, bright red, shining face, constituting an acute attack, it is erysipelas.

This disease, when idiopathic, generally attacks the face, commencing often near the ala of the nose, as a bright red spot, which rapidly spreads and soon involves the whole countenance. This simple form of erysipelas, although not a dangerous disease in a previously healthy and temperate person, is, in drunkards and feeble subjects, more serious. There is a variety which, in any one, is an alarming affection. It is characterized by a disposition to attack contiguous mucous membranes and rapidly spread along them. The nose, mouth, pharynx, or the larynx, may become involved, and where this last organ is invaded the danger to the patient is imminent. This patient is a drunkard, and he had the symptoms of commencing mucous erysipelas, so to speak, when he entered the wards two days ago. Now the redness, soreness, and swelling of the fauces are gone, and the facial affection is not quite so violent. The treatment has been both local and constitutional. A successful attempt was made to check the spreading of the inflammation by the free use of tincture of iodine on the sound skin around it. It was formerly the custom to apply for this purpose a strong solution of nitrate of silver. But VEPREAU has shown that the tincture of iodine has at least as great and probably greater power in this way than the argenti nitras, and has the very great advantage of not leaving behind it a persistent black stain. To the affected surface lead water and opium have been applied. Often narcotized mudclages of sassafras pith or slippery elm bark are very serviceable. The old Arabian physicians used an infusion of poppy heads in both this disease and small-pox, and it is indeed a very soothing application. For the inflamed fauces a gargle containing largely the tincture of ferri chlorid. was used. Had not this sufficed to check the throat trouble, a strong solution of the nitrate of silver would have been employed, and in a rapidly spreading case the latter is the most reliable drug. Internally, he took the tincture of ferri chlorid. Why? Because of the great and almost specific influence this remedy has in erysipelas. Quinine and whisky also were administered, not directly to check the disease, but to support the system until the attack might be subdued. The natural tendency of this affection is adynamic, and when it occurs in a drunkard, his safety dwells in free stimulation. Light purgation will benefit this man, but all drastic purgatives must be scrupulously avoided, for fear of so irritating the bowels as to cause a translation of the disease to their mucous membrane.

Medical Societies.

OHIO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Seventeenth Annual Session.

Reported by E. B. Stevens, M. D., Secretary.

FIRST DAY, MORNING SESSION,
TUESDAY, June 16, 1863. }

The Ohio State Medical Society met at White Sulphur Springs, June 16, and was called to order at 10 o'clock A. M. The President, Dr. J. W. RUSSELL, in the chair; Dr. E. B. STEVENS, Secretary.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of last year was omitted.

Dr. REAMY, Chairman of the Executive Committee, being absent, Dr. M. DAWSON reported that all necessary arrangements had been made for the accommodation of the Society by Mr. WILSON, and moved that the order of business of the two past years be adopted for the present session of the Society.

On motion, the report was accepted and suggestion adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that all the members present register their names at the Secretary's desk.

The President announced the following as the Committee on Nominations: Drs. MURPHY, BEEMAN, ROBT. THOMPSON, HUNT AND ANDREWS.

Dr. ROBT. THOMPSON offered the following:

Resolved, That this Society cordially invite all literary, scientific and professional gentlemen that now are, or may yet arrive at the "White Sulphur Springs" during our session, to take seats among us, as it may suit their pleasure and convenience. Adopted.

The President appointed Drs. KIRTLAND and SCARFF to fill vacancies on the Finance Committee, who subsequently presented the following report:

The Finance Committee beg leave to report that an assessment upon each member of \$1.00 be and is hereby made for the current expenses of the coming year.

C. P. LANDON,
J. P. KIRTLAND,
W. D. SCARFF.
Finance Committee.

The report was received and adopted.

On motion, the order of business was suspended to allow the Chairman of the Publication Committee to make the following report:

The Committee on Publication respectfully report that two hundred and fifty copies of the Transactions for 1862 were published at an expense of \$154.05.

E. B. STEVENS, *Chairman.*

On motion, report was received.

Dr. LANDON offered a resolution that the Society do not wait longer for the report of the Nominating Committee, but proceed to nominate and ballot in open Society for officers for the ensuing year; which, after various attempts at amendment, and ineffectual efforts to withdraw, was finally lost. And

On motion, Drs. M. DAWSON, M. THOMPSON and HAMILTON, were appointed a Committee to wait upon the Nominating Committee, with instructions to report forthwith.

The Committee on Nominations made their report, and the Society proceeded to ballot with the following result:

President—W. P. Kincaid, of Neville.

Vice Presidents—M. Dawson, of Royalton, D. S. Gans, of Cincinnati, David Noble, of Highland Co., J. J. Hamill, of Newark.

Secretaries—E. B. Stevens, of Cincinnati, N. Dalton, of Logan.

Treasurer—J. B. Thompson, of Columbus.

Committee on Admissions—J. G. Kyle, T. L. Neal, R. L. Sweney, C. P. Landon, A. Metz.

On motion, the sum of \$1.00 was ordered to be put to the credit of Dr. BELDING, an amount paid Dr. RICKY, former Treasurer, and not credited.

The President appointed Drs. M. DAWSON and P. CRUM a Committee to wait upon the President elect, inform him of his election, and escort him to the chair immediately after recess.

On motion, the Society took a recess until two o'clock.

FIRST DAY, AFTERNOON Session,
TUESDAY, June 16, 1863. }

The Committee conducted the President elect, Dr. KINCAID, to the chair, who acknowledged the compliment paid him by the Society in a few brief remarks.

The retiring President, Dr. RUSSELL, then proceeded to deliver his valedictory address, his topic being "The Means for Professional Advancement."

On motion, the address was referred to the Committee on Publication, with instructions to print.

The Standing Committees were called. The Committee on Medical Societies presented a lengthy report on the condition of the Societies auxiliary to the State Society, with considerations and suggestions for advancing the efficiency of the Society. On motion, referred to the Committee on Publication, with discretionary power to print.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Mt. Vernon Medical Society were presented, and referred to the Committee on Medical Societies, who subsequently further reported, that having examined the same, they recommend the Mt. Vernon Medical Society to be admitted as auxiliary to the State Society. Report accepted and adopted.

The Secretary announced that arrangements had been made with the Little Miami, Columbus and Xenia, Hamilton and Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland, and Pittsburg, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroads, returning members in attendance on this Society and their families free.

On motion of Dr. HAMILTON, the Secretary was directed to make acknowledgments to these companies for their courtesy.

The Special Committees were called, and a portion reported themselves in readiness; also several volunteer papers were announced.

The Chairman of the Committee on Obituaries stated that he should report before the adjournment of the Society, and expressed his regrets that individual members were so forgetful of their duty to co-operate in the contribution of materials for obituary notices.

Dr. STEVENS reported that Prof. BLACKMAN and himself had attended the Indiana State Society at its session last fall, representing this Society; that the Indiana Society was a live, working Society, and that it sent greetings to the Ohio State Medical Society.

Dr. KINCAID stated that no meeting of the Kentucky State Society was held last year, hence he had not attended as delegate from this Society.

The resolution offered this morning by the Committee on Nominations was on motion taken up and adopted, allowing \$100 a year as compensation to the Treasurer.

Dr. GANS offered the following:

Resolved, That hereafter the respective Special Committees on scientific subjects shall ordinarily be composed of but one member. Adopted.

Dr. STEVENS offered the following:

Resolved, 1st, That hereafter the regular annual election of officers shall be made the order of business at some deferred hour of the sessions, instead of at the opening, as is now the custom.

24. And the nominations shall be made in open session of the Society, without the intervention of a Committee. Adopted.

The Secretary read a communication from Drs. DAVIS and ARMOR, of Dayton, in regard to the complaints made against Dr. OLIVER CROOK, and referred to them as a special committee at the last annual meeting.

On motion, the whole matter was referred to the Committee on Ethics, with instructions to report to-morrow morning.

On motion of Dr. MURPHY, a Committee of three was appointed to prepare a preamble and resolutions, expressing the sense of this Society concerning "Circular No. 6" of Surgeon-General HAMMOND, (being the famous calomel and tartar emetic order,) Drs. MURPHY, WEBER and METZ that Committee. Pending its adoption, animated remarks were made by Drs. MURPHY, ROBT. THOMPSON, MCBRIDE, and others.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY, MORNING SESSION, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1863.

9 o'clock A. M.—Dr. KINCAID, the President, in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read, and after some verbal amendments, adopted.

Dr. CONKLIN introduced Dr. R. E. HOUGHTON, of the Indiana State Medical Society, who was, on motion of Dr. CRUME, elected an honorary member of the Society, and was invited by the President to take a seat with us and participate in our proceedings. Dr. HOUGHTON responded in a neat and pertinent address.

Dr. M. DAWSON offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be, and are hereby tendered to the retiring officers for the able, dignified and courteous discharge of their several duties. Adopted.

The Committee on Ethics reported back the papers in the case of Dr. CROOK, for the action of the Society.

On motion of Dr. MURPHY,

Resolved, That the action of the Montgomery County Medical Society be confirmed, and Dr. CROOK be declared expelled from this State Society.

A warm debate followed, in which Drs. MURPHY, HAMILTON, STEVENS, ANDREWS, GANS, the President and others participated. At length the motion of Dr. MURPHY was withdrawn, and the whole matter was, on motion of Dr. KYLE, referred to the Committee on Ethics, with instructions to report immediately after dinner. The President appointed Drs. REISINGER, ANDREWS and KYLE, Committee on Ethics *pro tem*.

On motion of Dr. STEVENS, Dr. Landon was appointed Treasurer *pro tem*, in the absence of Dr. Thompson.

On motion of Dr. HAMILTON, the ladies were invited to be present at our sessions.

The reports of Special Committees were now called for, and Dr. GANS proceeded to read his report on Obstetrics, being chiefly devoted to the consideration of

Electro-Galvanism in Obstetric Practice.

The paper was discussed by Drs. Robt. Thompson, Mitchell, Russell, Gans, Leonard, and Houghton of Indiana, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Publication, with instructions to print, and the thanks of the Society extended to Dr. GANS for his able report.

Dr. MITCHELL stated in his remarks that he was prepared to confirm the views of Dr. GANS from his own private experience, gave the particulars of an extreme case of uterine hemorrhage, in which he used electro-magnetism with prompt relief, together with other confirmatory experience.

Dr. GANS hoped it would not be sufficient to read a paper and have it printed, but that each member would be thereby stimulated to give his own observations, and proceeded to give the details of several cases in obstetric practice, illustrating the views of his report.

Dr. LEONARD wished to know of Dr. GANS if he regarded the contraction produced by electricity a permanent contraction, or does relaxation occur with the removal of the poles of the battery?

Dr. GANS replied that the contraction was an imitation of natural pain, and the agent was at hand to continue or renew at pleasure or necessity, or while the necessity continues.

Dr. HAMILTON moved that Dr. GANS be continued to report, at our next annual meeting, his personal experience in the use of electro-galvanism in obstetric practice.

The President read the following communication from Dr. M. B. WRIGHT, Chairman of the Committee on Prizes for prize essay of last year:

CINCINNATI, June 15, 1863.

Dr. RUSSELL. *Dear Sir*: It is possible I may be prevented from being with you at the present session of the State Society, and I write hastily to say that the Committee on Prize Essay and Medal have deemed it best not to procure a medal at the present time, in consequence of the high price of gold. It is to be hoped that before the next meeting of the Society a medal may be procured, creditable to the essayist and the Society.

Respectfully,

M. B. WRIGHT,
Chairman of Committee.

The Surgeon-General's Order No. 6.

The Committee on "Circular No. 6" of Surgeon-General HAMMOND, appointed yesterday, presented through its Chairman, Dr. MURPHY, the following report:

The Ohio State Medical Society has read with profound regret Circular No. 6 of W. A. HAMMOND, M. D., Surgeon-General, U. S. A., in which he orders that calomel and tartar emetic shall be stricken from the supply-table of the army. This Society cannot accept the statement made in the order, that innumerable cases of pytalism and mercurial gangrene have been observed in the army, as the result of the injudicious use of calomel. Many of the members of this Society have had extensive observation in regimental and general hospitals, and have not observed innumerable cases of pytalism, nor any case of mercurial gangrene. It is believed that from statistics, already collected since the publication of Circular No. 6, the statement may be made that calomel and tartar emetic have not been used to the injurious extent as set forth therein.

This Society cannot resist the expression of its strong disapprobation of the Circular as unjust and untrue. In fact, it is a virtual endorsement of the false charges which have been made against the scientific profession by the representatives of the various empirical systems of medicine. The regular profession has always claimed the right to use any remedy that clinical experience has proved to have therapeutical power. To forbid the use of a remedy because it has been abused, is to forbid the use of almost all remedies. The true course is to remove the surgeon who does not manifest skill or judgment in the administration of remedies.

This Society feels that Dr. HAMMOND has done great injustice to the profession in this State, and particularly to those who are now serving in the army. With few exceptions, all surgeons and assistant surgeons from the State of Ohio have been submitted to a rigid examination as to their mental, moral and physical qualifications. This Society was instrumental at the beginning of the war in having the State Medical Board of Examiners of surgeons

and assistant-surgeons appointed, and the members of this Society have insisted that no one should be appointed without an examination.

This Society believes that the surgeons and assistant-surgeons from this State are well qualified, and that Circular No. 6 not only implies that they are not qualified to administer safely two remedies, but raises a doubt in the public mind as to their general skill or ability, and for this reason is not only untrue and unjust, but cruel.

This Society, therefore, respectfully and firmly protests against the statement of Circular No. 6, as being untrue, and still further, as being at variance with the philosophy and progressive spirit of the legitimate profession. Therefore,

Resolved, That Dr. W. A. HAMMOND be requested to revoke Circular No. 6, and place calomel and tartar emetic again on the supply-table.

Resolved, 2d, That this Society will not be satisfied with anything less than a revocation of the order.

Resolved, 3d, That in the event of the refusal of the Surgeon-General to comply with this request, that he is hereby requested to resign.

Resolved, 4th, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be sent to the Governor of Ohio, Senators SHERMAN and WADE, the President, Secretary of War, and the Surgeon-General of the United States.

Amended by Dr. HAMILTON, additionally:

Resolved, 5, That Drs. John A. Murphy, G. C. E. Weber, and A. Metz be a Committee instructed to report to the American Medical Association that this Society demands the speedy trial and expulsion of Dr. W. A. HAMMOND, for the gross injustice done the profession of medicine by his foolish and quackish order No. 6.

The subject was discussed at length, with earnestness and dignity, by Drs. Hamilton, R. Thompson, Gans, West, McBride, Kincaid and others.

Dr. McBRIDE offered the following preamble and resolutions as a substitute for the report of the Committee:

Whereas, We have reason to believe that in consequence of the asthenic and scorbutic types of disease in our army, and that from the necessity of the case many inexperienced physicians, and a large number of the various tribes of quacks, such as Eclectics, Homœopaths, etc., etc., have got into the army as surgeons, and that with the types of disease prevalent, the injudicious use of mercury and antimony by these classes of men would be likely to cause more damage than the aggregate amount of good accomplished by these remedies in the hands of the judicious. And,

Whereas, The Surgeon-General, seeing this to be the case, has ordered the non-use of calomel, the mercurial most liable to abuse, designing thereby no reproof to the scientific surgeon, but a restraint upon all sorts of pretenders, for the good and efficiency of the army. Therefore,

Resolved, That we highly approve of the designs and patriotic motives of the Surgeon-General in issuing General Order No. 6.

Resolved, That the issuing of said order and a general acquiescence in the same will have the effect, not only to save the health and lives of some soldiers in the army on whom it was alone designed to operate, but to elevate the character of the medical profession, both in and out of the army.

In the midst of the discussion, the Society took a recess for dinner until 3 o'clock, P. M.

SECOND DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION, WEDNESDAY, June 17, 1863.

The Society resumed the debate on the resolutions under consideration before recess. Drs. Noble, Houghton of Indiana, Kirtland, McBride, Hamilton and others, continued the discussion.

Dr. McBRIDE withdrew his substitute, and read a

written statement of his views, disapproving the tenor of the Circular, but doubting the propriety of extreme language in our resolutions of disapproval.

The resolutions and preamble of the Committee were taken up separately, and unanimously adopted.

Dr. E. B. STEVENS read his paper on New Remedies. On motion, referred to Committee on Publication, with instructions to print, and requested to continue on the same Committee to report at some future meeting, with the thanks of the Society.

Asylum for Inebriates.

Dr. RUSSELL offered the following:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the State Medical Society, it is time our Legislature should adopt measures to erect an Asylum for Inebriates in our State.

Resolved, That an opportunity now be afforded for members of this Society to submit donations to this worthy object, which shall be binding if this State shall make an appropriation of \$20,000 or more, for such noble charity before the expiration of the next two years.

Resolved, That the President of this Society is requested and authorized to appoint one regular physician in each County of the State, who shall be solicited to procure subscriptions from our medical brethren in each County, and exert all laudable efforts in his power to enlist the energies of our Senators and members of the next Legislature, as may be practicable for the passage of such laws as shall effect this object at an early day.

The Committee on Ethics made the following report:

Your Committee beg leave to report that in view of the evidence before them, they believe it to be their duty to sustain the action of the Montgomery County Medical Society, and ask to submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That Dr. CROOK be expelled from this Society.

J. S. REISINGER,
H. S. CONKLIN,
F. M. ANDREWS.

On motion, the report was accepted and adopted.

Dr. HYATT moved that five hundred copies of the Constitution and By-laws and Code of Ethics be published for the use of the State Society, and that the Treasurer be instructed to send a copy to each member of the Society as soon as published.

A charge of non-professional conduct was preferred against Dr. GRUWELL, of Damascusville, and on motion, it was referred to the Committee on Ethics.

On motion of Dr. SCARFF, when this Society adjourn, it adjourn to meet at Cincinnati, on the third Tuesday of June, 1864. Amended to read White Sulphur Springs, instead of Cincinnati.

Dr. M. DAWSON offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to ANDREW WILSON, Esq., of the White Sulphur Springs, for the use of the hall and other accommodations afforded the meetings of the Society, as well as the courtesy and attention we have received as his guests.

On motion, the Society took a recess until to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY, MORNING SESSION, THURSDAY, June 18, 1863.

9 o'clock, A. M.—Minutes read and approved.

Homœopathic Examining-Surgeon.

Dr. LEONARD offered the following, which, after some remarks and minor amendments, were adopted:

Whereas, It is known that the Secretary of War has appointed one Dr. GILSON, a homœopathic pretender, as Examining-Surgeon in the Board of Enrollment, in the Fourth Congressional District, in preference to honorable and high-minded men of the regular profession; therefore,

Resolved, That that appointment, as well as all others of like character, is an outrage on the people of the District, unjust to the profession of medicine and the advancement of science, and prejudicial to the public service.

Resolved, 2d, That the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this preamble and resolution to the Secretary of War, asking his removal, through Governor Tod and Col. FARROT, Provost Marshal of this State.

Medical Education.

Dr. MURPHY offered the following:

Resolved, That the members of this Society and the profession of the State at large be requested to exact from all students the qualifications as to preliminary education laid down by the American Medical Association.

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three members to be present, with the permission of the several faculties, at the final examination of the candidates for the degree in each of the four medical schools of the State.

Resolved, That the schools of the State be requested to raise their fees so as to amount in gross to one hundred and five dollars.

And proceeded to address the Society at considerable length on the whole subject of medical schools, medical students, medical education, etc., etc. Drs. SCARFF, RUSSELL, KIRTLAND, SPEES, HAMILTON and others participated in the debate. The resolutions were adopted.

Volunteer Papers.

Dr. N. DALTON proceeded to read a volunteer paper on "Arrest and Cure of a case of Mollities Ossium by the use of Phosphate of Lime and Phosphoric Acid, with remarks." On motion, referred to the Publication Committee with instructions to print, and the thanks of the Society to the author.

Dr. HYATT proceeded to give a volunteer contribution "On the use of Hydrocyanate of Iron in Epilepsy, with cases." On motion, referred to the Committee on Publication with instructions to print.

Remarks were made by Dr. STEVENS, giving some personal experience adverse to the beneficial effects of the remedy; and by Dr. KINCAID, especially giving his experience in the good effects of cannabis indica and belladonna.

Recess.

THIRD DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION,

THURSDAY, June 18, 1863.

The question of the existence of a diploma plate or parchments for this Society was raised by Dr. STEVENS, and after some remarks by several of the old members, on motion, Drs. GANS, STEVENS and MURPHY were appointed a committee to make all necessary inquiries on this matter, prepare a design of a plate, if necessary, and report the expense, at the next meeting.

Dr. MCBRIDE read a volunteer paper on certain adipose tumors. Referred to the Committee on Publication with instructions to print.

At different times during the session of the Society the Committee on Admissions reported the names of the following as suitable persons to become members of the Ohio State Medical Society, who were thereupon duly elected: Drs. T. L. Neal, Dayton; Robt. Woody, Eaton; A. Beach, Bellville; C. D. Case, Lewis Centre; C. Gunzaulus, Mt. Liberty; Joel Morse, Cleveland; R. E. Jones, Gomer; A. Potter, Wiltshire; Alleyne Maynard, Cleveland; J. J. Hamill, Newark; S. J. Spees, Lynchburg; J. C. Brown, Urbans; Milton Mitchell, Mansfield; L. J. Pease, Williamsburg; J. H. Buckner, Cincinnati; J. T. Reid, Fairfield; and John Turnbull, Xenia.

The Finance Committee make the following report:

The Committee on Finance respectfully make the

following report: Having examined the accounts, papers and vouchers of the Treasurer, Dr. J. B. THOMPSON, we find the same correct, the exhibit presenting the following statement:

Balance in Treasury from last year.....	\$ 11
Postage stamps and stamped envelopes.....	3 93
Initiation fees and fees of assessment, and sales of Transactions.....	263.02—\$267 06
Expenditures.....	233.95

Balance in Treasury..... \$33.11

Your Committee take great pleasure in expressing much gratification in the very satisfactory manner in which the Treasurer has performed the arduous duties of his office, and unanimously recommend the adoption of the report.

C. P. LANDON,
J. P. KIRTLAD,
W. D. SCARFF.

On motion, adopted.

The subject of obituary notices came up, and Dr. LANDON stated that he had been unable to collect any materials of value; and, on motion, the members present were requested to give personal reminiscences of any deceased members of their acquaintance. Dr. HAMILTON gave touching and appropriate notices of Drs. PIERCE, CARLEY and SPILLMAN. Dr. SMITH noticed still further the deaths of Dr. PIERCE and Dr. McMEENS.

The President announced the following committees for the ensuing year:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Executive—M. Dawson, E. Hyatt, J. G. Rogers, J. P. Kirtland, R. Thompson.

Finance—D. S. Gans, R. L. Sweney, A. Carey, D. Noble, T. J. Mullen.

Publication—E. B. Stevens, N. Dalton, J. J. Hamill, J. W. Hamilton, W. W. Dawson.

Medical Ethics—J. S. Reisinger, F. M. Andrews, A. Metz, H. S. Conklin, W. C. Hall.

Medical Societies—P. Beeman, A. McBride, W. L. Peck, Wm. Mount, G. F. Mitchell.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Surgery—N. Dalton.

Diseases of the Eye—A. Metz.

Obstetrical Surgery—M. B. Wright.

Practice of Medicine—J. A. Murphy.

Obituaries—M. Dawson.

Electricity in Obstetrics—D. S. Gans.

New Remedies—E. B. Stevens.

Insanity—R. Gundry.

Asthma—T. A. Reamy.

Pancreatic Disease—J. P. Grawell.

Diphtheria—P. Beeman.

Delegates to Indiana State Medical Society—H. S. Conklin, J. A. Murphy.

Delegates to American Medical Association—W. C. Hall, Fayetteville; A. Metz, Massillon; J. G. Rogers, New Richmond; D. S. Gans, J. A. Murphy, E. B. Stevens, G. C. Blackman, J. L. Vattier, Geo. Fries, B. F. Richardson, J. Graham, W. W. Dawson, M. B. Wright, Cincinnati; F. M. Andrews, J. C. Denise, T. L. Neal, C. McDermont, Dayton; J. W. Russell, Mt. Vernon; W. L. Peck, Circleville; Wm. Mount, Cumminsburg; F. T. Hurxthall, Massillon; L. T. Pease, Williamsburg; G. F. Mitchell, Mansfield; J. S. Reisinger, Gallion; P. Beeman, H. S. Conklin, Sidney; Abel Carey, Salem; J. W. Hamilton, John Thompson, S. M. Smith, John Dawson, Columbus; C. P. Landon, Westerville; N. Dalton, Logan; G. W. Boerstler, Lancaster; M. Dawson, Royalton; R. L. Sweney, Marion; E. Hyatt, Delaware; A. McBride, Berea; T. J. Mullen, New Richmond; B. B. Leonard, West Liberty; C. C. Hildreth, Zanesville; E. Vanatta, New Lexington; D. Noble, Sugar Tree Ridge; T. W. Gordon, Georgetown; G. C. E. Weber, E. Sterling, J. A. Sayles, C. A. Terry, A. Maynard, Cleveland; W. B. Scarff, Bellefontaine; C. Falconer, Hamilton; C. Cochran, Sandusky; S. J. Spees, Lynchburg.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

PITTSFIELD, MASS., June 17, 1863.

The Annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was held in Pittsfield on the 17th ult. The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, from which the following report is taken, speaks of it as one of the most agreeable anniversaries that have yet occurred in its annals.

A large number of Fellows availed themselves of the occasion to escape from the daily routine of professional life, and spend a brief holiday amidst the beautiful scenery of Berkshire. The citizens of Pittsfield spared neither labor nor expense in providing for the wants of their guests, and in contributing to their entertainment. Many of them opened their doors for the accommodation of the large number of Fellows who were unable to obtain lodgings in the hotels, and several of them entertained the members at their houses on the evenings of the 16th and 17th. To the Committee of Arrangements the Society is largely indebted for their successful management of all the details relating to the meeting. A highly interesting exhibition, consisting chiefly of calisthenic exercises, was given to the Fellows by the young ladies of the Maplewood Institute, by the courtesy of the Rev. Dr. SPEAR, the able head of the establishment. The Messrs. TILDEN, whose medical preparations are so extensively and favorably known, invited such of the members as were able to remain after the meeting, to visit their extensive laboratory and gardens at New Lebanon, and to witness the process of manufacture of vegetable extracts *in vacuo*.

In presenting his annual report as Treasurer, Dr. GOULD announced his intention of not becoming again a candidate for the office. Much regret was expressed at the retirement of an officer to whom the Society has been for more than nineteen years indebted for the most faithful and efficient services, and the thanks of the Councillors were unanimously tendered him. The Treasurer represented the financial affairs of the Society to be in an improved condition, and anticipated an early liquidation of the debt under which the Society has labored for several years past.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:—

President—Dr. Josiah Bartlett, of Concord.
Vice President—Dr. Ebenezer Alden, of Randolph.
Corresponding Secretary—Dr. B. E. Cotting, of Roxbury.
Recording Secretary—Dr. W. W. Morland, of Boston.
Treasurer—Dr. Francis Minot, of Boston.
Librarian—Dr. W. E. Coale, of Boston.
Orator—Dr. J. Mason Warren, of Boston.
Anniversary Chairman—Dr. H. J. Bigelow, of Boston.

Committee of Arrangements—Drs. W. E. Coale, Ezra Palmer, W. E. Townsend, Anson Hooker and Francis Minot.

The meeting of the Society was held on the following day, at 10 o'clock, in the Berkshire Medical College. Delegates from the State Societies of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey were present, and delegates to the societies of all the New England States, of New York and New Jersey were appointed. Dr. H. R. STORER, of Boston, read an interesting paper on the Employment of Anesthetics in Obstetric Surgery and Medicine; and Dr. SWINBURNE, of Albany, N. Y., presented a paper on the subject of Ambulance Corps, which was referred to the Councillors.

At 12 o'clock, Dr. MORRILL WYMAN, of Cambridge, pronounced the annual discourse, an able and eloquent vindication of the claims of medicine to the confidence of the public, and which was listened to with deep attention and interest.

The dinner, which took place at West's Hall, at 2½ o'clock, was tendered to the Fellows of the So-

ciet by the citizens of Pittsfield, and was all that taste and liberality could devise. About two hundred gentlemen were seated at the tables. Dr. H. H. CHILDS, of Pittsfield, presided as Anniversary Chairman. Among the invited guests we noticed Dr. ALDEN MARCH, of Albany, President of the American Medical Association; Dr. HOPKINS, President of Williams College; Rev. Dr. TODD, of Pittsfield, and many others.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Periscope.

FOREIGN.

Tapping Joints Distended with Fluid.

Professor INZANI, of Parma, in a paper on this subject, in *Omoclet's Annali*, begins by asserting the perfect harmlessness of puncturing a distended joint, even during the progress of acute inflammation. The fear of bad consequences following from the wound of the tendinous structures is a mere imagination of the ancients; nor does the air ever appear to make its entrance. The puncture may be made with a trocar or a lancet; the latter is preferable for superficial joints. The author has operated very frequently on the knee, several times on the elbow, occasionally on the carpus and ankle, and once only on the hip; no bad consequences ever followed. Pressure by means of a starched bandage should be made, and when the synovial sac refills it should be again punctured before the distension has advanced too far. In this way a radical cure may be obtained. Examples are given in which large joints, principally the knee, were open for effusions of blood, of serum in acute inflammation, of serum in chronic inflammation, and of pus, usually with a successful result. But paracentesis should be avoided where the skin is much thinned and ulceration seems impending. In the synovial bursæ, paracentesis has given equally good results. The examples which are given are those of effusion in the sheaths of tendons after accident (as the peronei in sprains of the foot, the extensors of the thumb in falls of the hand,) in which a puncture will give exit to synovial fluid mixed with blood, with much relief to the pain and abbreviation of the course of the disease. The author believes that by these punctures chronic synovitis may often be arrested in cases which, treated by ordinary methods, would end in "white swelling," and that in dropsy of the joint the treatment by repeated puncture and pressure is as effectual and more safe than by injections.—*London Medical Review and Dublin Medical Press*.

The Action of Expectoration.

In a paper on this subject, read at a recent meeting of the Glasgow Medical and Chirurgical Society by Dr. W. T. GAIRDNER, he advanced the theory that the bronchial tubes acted in a manner similar to that of the bowels, and ejected their contents by a peristaltic motion, which could as certainly be increased by appropriate medicines as could that of the bowels.

Mortality in London in 1862.

The deaths in London in 1862 from all causes were 66,950, of which 34,133 were males, and 32,817 females. The greatest number occurred in the forty-eighth week, ending 29th of November, when they rose to 1745. In that week the mean temperature of the air fell to 37.18. The least number occurred in the twenty-eighth week, and was 1065, when the mean temperature rose to 53.28.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 4, 1863.

The rebel invasion of this State, the threatened demonstration against Philadelphia, and the excitement consequent thereon, make it incumbent on us to ask the indulgence of our readers for any irregularities that the extraordinary circumstances in which we are placed, may cause.

The editor has felt it to be his duty to take up the musket for city defence, and, for awhile his time will be partly occupied with military duties. It is hoped that no emergency will arise that will require his whole time, but if there should, there are others who will no doubt lend their aid in the editorial management of the REPORTER.

The same circumstances have so deranged all branches of business, that it will be difficult to get the full quota of work done, or to get it done with the promptness that is desirable. We shall do the best we can.

We must ask our subscribers to be indulgent, to send us communications, (for the excitement has nearly stopped these,) and to answer our calls upon them as promptly as possible.

"NUMBER SIX."

The Surgeon-General's Order No. 6 is likely to be turned to some account in eliciting information in regard to the *abuses* of calomel and tartar emetic. It will also aid materially in giving vivacity and interest to the Medical History of the War, though, in view of the ability of the able editors of that work, and the abundance of material, it scarcely needed such questionable aid.

The Circular to the medical profession, on another page, places Order No. 6 in a new light. It is a tacit admission of the justice of our criticisms upon it, for it seems now that it was not intended that calomel and tartar emetic were to be entirely struck from the supply list, but only that a check should be put upon their indiscriminate use. They are still issued, if we understand this circular rightly, "on special requisition."

We are very glad that the Surgeon-General has made this explanation. How much better it would have been to have worded his original order in such a way as not to require explanation.

It is possible that enough "eminent members of the medical profession" will be found to give in their adhesion to the entire propriety of Order No. 6, in the light of the explanation contained in this last order, to give the color of the sanction of the profession to it. These medical men will probably be actuated by two principal motives, viz.: A few by conscientious hostility to the use of these agents which they have practically carried out in every-day practice, and more because the order emanated from so distinguished a source as the Surgeon-General's office, and therefore must be right. But we would like to have the whole profession speak out in response to this circular—not doubting but it will be generally distributed—and have a fair balance struck.

We are receiving communications from our subscribers on the subject, and shall reserve any further comments for another occasion.

As the proof of this is passing through the press, another explanatory note appears, to the effect that the circular to eminent members of the profession, referred to above, is intended to be sent to medical officers of the army, only.

THE ABUSE OF MERCURIALS.

The following Circular, published prior to the reception in the West, of Surgeon-General HAMMOND's famous anti-mercury edict, has been furnished us by a practitioner in Missouri. As contrasted with the Washington Circular, and as an evidence of sound common sense united to professional knowledge, covering the subject so completely, to the annihilation of the *abuse* and not the *use* of mercury, we consider it worthy of insertion in the REPORTER.

ASSISTANT SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
St. Louis, Mo., May 7, 1863. }

Circular, No. 11.—Numerous cases of salivation, and even cases of sloughing phagedena of the cheek, resulting from the abuse of mercurials, have been reported to this office.

The attention of Medical Directors is called to the fact, that such a reckless exhibition of this powerful remedy is not uncommon. With a view of correcting this evil, they are hereby directed to issue instructions, that in future, any Surgeon in charge of a General Hospital, or Hospital Transport, who shall be called upon to receive any case of a similar aggravated character, shall immedi-

ately report to this office the name of the medical officer who has been guilty of such malpractice.

(Signed,) JOSEPH B. BROWN,
Surgeon U. S. A., Act'g Assist. Surgeon-General.

Army and Navy News.

The Use of Calomel in the Army.

The following circular of inquiry has been issued for distribution among medical men:

Surgeon-General's Office, Washington City, D. C., June 12th, 1863.—Dear Sir—Desiring to obtain the opinions of the more eminent members of the medical profession relative to the indiscriminate use of calomel and tartarized antimony, I have the honor to request that you will answer the following questions:

1st. To what extent do you prescribe calomel and tartar emetic in your practice?

2d. Do you regard these agents as indispensable in the treatment of disease?

3d. In view of the facts that a large number of the medical officers of the army are young and inexperienced, and that soldiers in the field cannot be placed beyond the influence of atmospheric vicissitudes and exposure whilst undergoing medical treatment, would you recommend that the medicines in question be issued to army medical officers, except, as at present, upon special requisition?

4th. Do you or do you not think that more harm than good has resulted from the use of calomel and tartar emetic as medicines?

It should be stated that the following mercurials are at present on the Supply Table, viz:—

Hydrargyri chloridum corrosivum;
Hydrargyri iodidum flavum;
Hydrargyri oxidum rubrum;
Hydrargyri pilulæ;
Hydrargyri unguentum;
Hydrargyri nitratis unguentum;
Pilulæ cathartice composite;

and that it is provided by paragraph 13, of Circular No. 7, dated Surgeon-General's Office, May 7, 1863, which contains the Supply Table, and which refers to the manner of obtaining medical supplies, "that it is not the design of the Department to confine Medical Officers absolutely to that table, either in variety or quantity, but only to establish a standard for their guidance in making requisitions for supplies leaving individual preferences to be indulged in the discretion of the Medical Director or Surgeon-General. Neither is it supposed that the quantities of the table will always meet the necessities of unusual emergencies, as during epidemics, or in unhealthy seasons and localities; and medical officers who allow their supplies to be exhausted through any such contingencies, without timely notice of their approaching necessities, will be held to strict accountability."

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon-General, U. S. A.

Orders.

Assistant Surgeon NORRIS has been ordered to report to the Medical Director of Washington.

Assistant Surgeon HILLEY ordered to report to the Medical Director of Baltimore.

Assistant Surgeon COWLES ordered to report to Medical Director at Harrisburg.

Assistant Surgeon RAMSEY ordered to take charge of Chester Hospital, near Philadelphia.

Assigned to North Carolina.

Surgeon J. H. SULLIVAN has been assigned to the Department of North Carolina.

Naval Surgical Changes.

Surgeon JOHN L. FOX is detached from the Chelsea Hospital and ordered to the sloop-of-war *Brooklyn*. Surgeon SAMUEL JACKSON is detached from the *Brooklyn* and ordered North. Surgeon LEWIS J. WILLIAMS is detached from the Navy Yard at New York and ordered to the sloop-of-war *Richmond*. Surgeon A. A. HENDERSON is detached from the *Richmond* and ordered North. Surgeon G. R. B. HORNER is ordered to the Navy Yard at New York. Surgeon JOS. BEALE has been ordered to the Naval Hospital at Chelsea, Mass.

Pension Examining Surgeons.

Maine—Dr. JOHN L. ALLEN, Saco. *New York*—Drs. JOHN ROOT, Batavia; DELOS A. CRANE, Holland Patent; E. A. MUNGER, Waterville; THOMAS J. BAILEY, Norwich. *New Jersey*—Dr. P. H. BRAKELY, Belvidere. *Illinois*—Dr. ALEX. K. KELLOGG, Mound City, vice S. W. HUNT, removed. *Pennsylvania*—Drs. PETER FALKNER, Erie; J. S. GRIFFITHS, Huntingdon. *Ohio*—Dr. GEO. O. HILBERTH, Marietta. *Indiana*—Dr. JOS. W. REDDEN, Shawneetown. *Iowa*—Dr. EDWARD WHINERY, Fort Madison. *Missouri*—Dr. JOHNSTON LYKENS, Kansas City.

Sick and Wounded.

The number of sick and wounded in all the hospitals of the country is about 49,000.

News and Miscellany.

New Professors in Harvard University.

Dr. CALVIN ELLIS, of Boston, has been appointed Adjunct Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the Medical Department of Harvard University. The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* says: A more fortunate selection than this for the College certainly could not have been made, and we are confident that it will prove completely satisfactory both to the profession and to the large body of medical students with whom the new professor is so popular. Dr. ELLIS has had a large experience in teaching as Assistant in Pathological Anatomy, and shown himself particularly adapted to impart to others the varied knowledge he possesses.

Prof. WALCOTT GIBBS, of New York, has also been chosen to fill the Rumford Professorship, made vacant by the resignation of Prof. HORSFORD, and to take charge of the Chemical Department of the Scientific School.

Dr. Hand.

It was announced in a recent number, that Dr. HAND, Medical Director of the army at Suffolk, Va., had been captured by the rebels. It seems that he received very severe injuries in his capture, from which he may never recover. The circumstances are related as follows:

When the guerrillas observed him approaching, they ordered him to halt, which he did not do instantly. Several rifles were then discharged at him, and though he fortunately escaped being shot, his horse fell mortally wounded beneath him. It was at this instant one of the cowardly assassins rushed from his place of concealment in the bushes and struck the fallen rider across the head with the butt of his rifle.

This stroke has affected the Doctor's spine, and he has found it imperative to return to the North for rest and medical treatment. During his temporary absence, Surgeon A. D. GALL, of the Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, will assume the duties of the office of Medical Director.

The Harris Hospital Car.

The Camden and Amboy R. R. Company has just completed and presented to the Sanitary Commission a new hospital car, of which the following is a description:

The length is 41-2 feet, and the width 8 feet 7 inches. The car will accommodate thirty-six patients, with the requisite number of attendants, usually three or four,—surgeon, steward and two "contrabands;" the patients being divided off as follows: twenty-four in beds, four on sofa, and six—the more convalescent—in easy chairs. Some idea may be formed of the thoughtfulness of Dr. ELISHA HARRIS, of New York, the originator of these cars, when we state that in addition to all the mechanical comforts supplied in the build of the car, the following partial list of articles of the first quality are also provided: 24 stretchers, 31 pillows, 24 counterpanes, 24 pairs of socks, 30 pairs slippers, 60 towels, 10 pair surgeon splints, 15 gowns, 1 roll of lint, 25 handkerchiefs, cooking apparatus, case of medicine, beef-sock, coffee, milk, cups, pitchers, knives, tin plates, bandages, rubber air pillows, rubber palls and blankets, utensils for cleansing, canteens, fans, and jellies—making in all a complete and portable hospital.

The facilities for ventilating the car cannot be surpassed for simplicity and efficacy. A free and pure current of air is constantly supplied, smoke and dust being ingeniously avoided. Every department in fact is so complete that a simple description cannot do justice to the ingenuity displayed on each.

MARRIED.

McCALL—WHITE.—At Washington, D. C., on the 25th June, by the Rev. James Buck, Charles A. McCall, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army, of this city, and Cordelia L., daughter of W. G. W. White, Esq., of Washington.

STEVENS—PHILLIPS.—On the 17th ult., at Beech Grove, by the Rev. A. Gosman, Dr. Thos. S. Stevens and Miss Sallie S., daughter of James A. Phillips, both of Lawrence, N. J.

VON TAGEN—MITCHELL.—At Roxborough, Twenty-first Ward, Philadelphia, June 5th, by the Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, Dr. Charles H. Von Tagen, U. S. Army, and Lucia W., daughter of T. Mason Mitchell, Esq.

DIED.

BULLARD.—Dr. Bullard, a distinguished physician in Indianapolis, died there recently, from disease contracted in aiding the Western volunteers.

CRUCE.—In this city, on the 21st ult., Dr. John J. Cruice, eldest son of the late James P. Cruice, Esq.

DAY.—June 27th, 1863, Willie Bowling Day, infant daughter of Dr. D. C. and Mrs. Julia Day, of Nashville, Tenn., aged 2 months and 27 days.

JACKSON.—March 21; near Willow Grove, Del., of consumption, Lewis P. Jackson, M.D., in his 28th year.

KENNICOTT.—Dr. John A. Kennicott, one of the most distinguished naturalists and horticulturalists in the West, died at his residence at "Cottage Grove," near Chicago, on Thursday morning, June 4th. The deceased was one of the earliest settlers there, having been identified with northwestern interests for thirty years. His intense love of everything appertaining to horticulture, his extensive theoretical knowledge, practically applied, of this, his life passion, have made him famous throughout the Northwest, wherever flowers bloom or trees put forth fruit. For many years he was President of the State Horticultural Society, and as such was always considered to be the leading spirit of that now distinguished body.

METCALFE.—In Morristown, N. J., on Thursday, June 18, Frances Augusta, infant daughter of Dr. John T. Metcalfe.

MUNN.—Suddenly, in Chatham, Morris county, N. J., June 22, Jephtha B. Munn, M.D. Dr. Munn was the oldest President of the Medical Society of New Jersey. He was elected Lieutenant Governor under the old Constitution of New Jersey, and for a time officiated as Governor. He was eighty-five years of age at the time of his death.

POWER.—In Dublin, May 14, 1863, John Hatch Power, M.D., at 56. Dr. Power was Professor of Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. He was the author of an excellent work on the Surgical Anatomy of the Arteries.

METEOROLOGY.

June	22,	23,	24,	25,	26,	27,	28.
Wind.....	S.	S. W.	S. W.	S. W.	E.	S. E.	S. E.
Weather....	Cloudy.	Clear.	Clear.	Clear.	Cl'dy, rain.	Clear.	Cl'dy.
Depth Rain...					1-7-10		
Thermometer							
Minimum.....	53°	53°	57°	58°	60°	58°	59°
At 8 A. M.....	61	66	67	71	68	68	67
At 12 M.....	71	70	72	77	68	74	74
At 3 P. M.....	69	73	73	79	65	77	77
Mean.....	67	69.7	70.1	76	66	73	73
Barometer.							
At 12 M.....	30	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.2	30.2	30.1

Germantown, Pa.

B. J. LEEDOM.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Philadelphia. Week ending June 27.	New York. Week ending June 20.	Baltimore. Week ending June 27.	Boston. Week ending June 30.	Providence. Month of
Population in 1860.	565,329	808,651	212,418	177,812	50,668
Mortality.					
Male	123	206	54	23	...
Female	87	184	45	24	...
Adults	82	158	26	30	...
Under 15 years.....	126	232	72	...	...
Under 2 years.....	85	136	48	...	...
Total.....	210	390	99	52	...
Deaths in 100,000...	37.12	48.40	46.62	27.24	...
American.....	166	273	...	31	...
Foreign.....	37	117	...	20	...
Negro.....	12	6	20	...	...
ZYMOTIC DISEASES.					
Cholera, Asiatic....	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera Infantum....	9	7	12	...	...
Cholera Morbus....	...	...	...	...	...
Croup.....	4	13	7	1	...
Diarrhoea.....	3	6	...	...	...
Diphtheria.....	1	16	2	...	...
Dysentery.....	...	6	6	1	...
Erysipelas.....	1	2	...	...	...
Fever, Intermittent...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever, Remittent....	...	...	...	2	...
Fever, Scarlet.....	5	20	9	1	...
Fever, Typhoid.....	7	...	...	3	...
Fever, Typhus.....	...	16	...	...	...
Fever, Yellow.....	...	...	...	...	...
Hoop-cough.....	1	...	2	...	...
Influenza.....	...	...	...	...	...
Measles.....	6	11	...	...	...
Small Pox.....	...	5	2	...	...
Syphilis.....	...	...	...	...	...
Thrush.....	...	...	...	1	...
SPORADIC DISEASES					
Albuminuria.....	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy.....	4	6	...	2	...
Consumption.....	26	40	11	10	...
Convulsions.....	14	40	...	...	...
Dropsy.....	8	16	1	1	...
Gun-shot Wounds..	2	...	1	...	...
Intemperance.....	...	...	...	3	...
Marasmus.....	13	20	...	...	...
Pleurisy.....	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia.....	...	...	...	3	...
Pauper's Fever.....	...	...	...	1	...
Scrofula.....	...	...	...	...	...
Violence and Acc'ts	11	30	...	2	...

American Dental Convention.

The ninth annual session of this body will take place on Tuesday, August 4th, at Saratoga Springs, New York.

American Dental Association.

The regular annual meeting of this Association takes place in this city, on the last Tuesday, (the 28th) of July next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

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